

NAACCR Town Meeting
NAACCR Committee Activities – Program Committee and GIS Committee
February 14, 2007
2:00 pm Eastern; 1:00 pm Central; 12:00 am Mountain; 11:00 am Pacific

Present – Representatives from the following registries and organizations:

(12 U.S.): Alaska Cancer Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry, Cancer Data Registry of Idaho, State Health Registry of Iowa, Massachusetts Cancer Registry, Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System, National Cancer Institute, National Cancer Registrars Association, New Jersey State Cancer Registry, Texas Cancer Registry, Virginia Cancer Registry.

2 Speakers: John J. Graff, Chair of Program Committee, Francis P. Boscoe, Chair of GIS Committee.

5 NAACCR Staff: Dr. Holly L. Howe, Moderator – Executive Director, Jan Conway-Office Manager, Lori Havener-Program Manager of Standards, Jim Hofferkamp-Trainer, Shannon Vann, Program Manager, Education and Training.

Welcome:

Holly L. Howe, PhD

The Town Meeting is an opportunity for NAACCR Membership to learn about the various committees in more detail than provided at the Annual Business Meeting. The purpose is two fold; the first is to let you know what is going on within NAACCR committees. The NAACCR organization is made up of committees and nearly all of the activities and accomplishments of the organization are those conducted and completed by the committees. In addition, this format gives people who are interested in becoming involved with a NAACCR committee some information and guidance in matching their interests with the activities of various committees.

Program Committee:

John Graff, Program Committee Chair

As stated by the NAACCR Operating Manual “The Program Committee is responsible for the program of the annual conference and works with the conference planner to set guidelines for meeting logistics and locations.” The 2007 Program Committee consists of twenty-two members. Members from the host staff include John Graff, (Chair), Nancy Lozon, Patrick Nicolin, Joanne Harris, Fawn Vigneau, and Gloria Kwiatkowski. Members from the NAACCR staff include Holly Howe, Charlie Blackburn, Jan Conway, and Shannon Vann. Other committee members include Betsy Kohler, NAACCR President (New Jersey State Cancer Registry), Mignon Dryden (Cancer Registry of Northern California), Brenda Edwards (National Cancer Institute), Eric Holowaty (Ontario Cancer Registry), Jeannette Jackson-Thompson (Missouri Cancer Registry), Patricia Lim (Venue West), Fran Michaud (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Marsha Reichman (National Cancer Institute), Randi Rycroft (Colorado cancer Registry), Won Silva (Michigan Cancer Surveillance Program), Jon Tonita (Saskatchewan Tumor Registry), Dee West (Northern California Cancer Registry).

The Program Committee has met monthly since June of 2006 to plan the program and activities of the 2007 conference. Each teleconference begins with a roll call of committee members and a review of minutes from the previous call. During the first call

the conference theme was discussed. The 2007 program theme "Cancer Knows No Borders" was submitted and approved by the NAACCR Board of Directors. This theme was chosen because it highlights the international scope of NAACCR and its members as well as the integration in the numerous specialties and disciplines that are involved in cancer registration, treatment, and research. The committee has also discussed at length plenary session topics and speakers for the sessions. The three topics that will be covered are *Cartographies of Cancer*, *Determining Quality of Cancer Care Using Cancer Registry Data*, and *Interoperability of Cancer Registration Standards*. All of the invited plenary speakers are very well published professionals and leaders in their area of specialty.

The Call for Abstracts was distributed via the NAACCR listserv on October 16, 2006. The abstract submission deadline was December 8, 2006. A record number of responses were received; a total of 145 oral and poster abstract submissions. The abstract review committee was led by Maria Schymura who is also the chair of the DURC committee. Accepted abstracts were forwarded to John Graff. All of the approved oral presentations were positioned in the program outline according to presentation theme. The final program consists of 11 plenary speakers, 91 concurrent sessions and 51 poster presentations. The acceptance and assignment letters are currently being sent out.

This year's program will be unique in a couple of respects. The quality of poster presentations has been increasing greatly from year to year. The Program Committee wanted a substantial dedicated time for conference attendees to focus on poster viewing and interaction with the poster authors. The poster viewing will have assigned time during the Tuesday evening opening reception and during a specified break time on Wednesday morning. There will also be special events to mark the 20 year celebration of NAACCR. A special presentation will be given by President Betsy Kohler at the opening ceremony. In addition, there will be special celebration during the Tuesday evening opening reception. The NAACCR conference is the only opportunity for the entire NAACCR membership to come together and interact with regard to past, present, and future organization, industry and scientific activity. Therefore, the NAACCR conference is an important showcase for the work being done by NAACCR and its membership. Involvement of the program committee is important for providing input on annual conference planning including topics covered, speakers invited, and for presentation and other planned activities. Necessary members each year will include:

- Chair from the host institution.
- Chairs from the previous and following years.
- Members from the Education and Communication Committees.
- Member of the NAACCR Board of Directors.
- Representatives from NCI and CDC.
- Representative from at least one Canadian registry.

Holly asked John to give a brief summary of how the responsibilities are divided. The host staff:

- The chair and committee plan what the content of the conference will be.
- The NAACCR office plans what the content of the pre and post educational workshops will be and supports the work of the committee.
- Venue West coordinates the logistics of the meeting space and printing of conference materials.

The Geographic Information Systems Committee - Frank Boscoe, Committee Chair

The GIS Committee was originally organized as an Ad Hoc group but has evolved and now serves much like a standing committee. Currently the group is co-chaired by Frank Boscoe and Kevin Henry and has over 20 members who participate in the monthly teleconference.

The GIS group was originally led by Toshi Abe. Past projects have included the GIS Handbook produced in 2002. The handbook is 68 pages of guidance through basic GIS cartography for cancer registries. The GIS group is currently preparing another handbook dealing with physical geo-coding which is the process of defining the longitude and latitude coordinates and other geographic identifiers to cancer case records. The group is also involved in creating and modifying some data elements that pertain to geography in some way. One of the new data items is the GIS Coordinate Quality Item. The GIS Committee has worked to improve the wording and some of the specific codes for census tracts. The GIS Committee has a large presence at the NAACCR annual conference in terms of presentations and posters. One plenary at the 2007 conference in June is titled "Cartographies of Cancer"; speakers will include David Stinchcomb of NCI, Tom Koch of the University of British Columbia, Tom Mason of the University of Southern Florida, and Tom Mack of the University of Southern California.

In 2006 NAACCR submitted a proposal to the Susan B. Koman Foundation for development of a software tool to look at travel distance to treatment for breast cancer to determine what relationship there is between distance to a treatment facility and outcome of care. The GIS Committee will provide oversight for this project.

Closing comments

Holly Howe

Holly thanked the two chairs for their contribution to the Town Meeting today.

Next Town Meeting

Information of the next Town Meeting will be distributed via the NAACCR listserv.